

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

**Listing of Claims:**

1 1-25. (Canceled).

1 26. (Previously Presented) In a computer network including a client  
2 computer and a central computer, a method of receiving an order of a laboratory test of a  
3 biological specimen for a patient comprising the steps of:

4 receiving, at the central computer, at least one query transmitted through  
5 the network from the client computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test  
6 request and patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested  
7 laboratory test; and

8 transmitting information through the network from the central computer to  
9 the client computer, the information including data for generating a test requisition and a  
10 label for use with the biological specimen.

1 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising  
2 the step of analyzing the at least one query at the central computer to verify that the  
3 requested laboratory test is payable by a responsible party identified in the billing  
4 information.

1 28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said  
2 receiving step comprises receiving a diagnosis code and a laboratory test code as a part  
3 of the at least one query and said analyzing step comprises searching a code database for  
4 correspondence between the diagnosis code and the laboratory test code.

1 29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said  
2 analyzing step comprises comparing an identified diagnosis and the requested laboratory  
3 test to a maximum value to determine whether a maximum number of tests has been  
4 exceeded for the identified diagnosis.

1                   30.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising  
2 the step of transmitting a notification through the network from the central computer to  
3 the client computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified  
4 responsible party for an identified diagnosis.

1                   31.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising  
2 the step of requesting an indication that the patient is responsible for payment in  
3 response to the notification.

1                   32.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising  
2 the step of transmitting a request for additional diagnosis information through the  
3 network from the central computer to the client computer if the requested laboratory test  
4 is not payable by the identified responsible party for an identified diagnosis.

1                   33.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising  
2 the step of transmitting a request through the network from the central computer to the  
3 client computer for additional information if ask-at-order-entry questions are required for  
4 the requested laboratory test.

1                   34.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, said receiving step  
2 comprising:

3                   receiving a patient identification at the central computer in the at least one  
4 query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about the patient for  
5 whom the test is being ordered;

6                   receiving billing information at the central computer in the at least one  
7 query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about a party responsible  
8 for payment of the test being ordered for the identified patient; and

9                   receiving a patient diagnosis at the central computer in the at least one  
10 query from the client computer, thereby obtaining at least one diagnosis for the identified  
11 patient.

1                   35-48. (Canceled).

1                   49.   (Previously Presented) Apparatus for receiving an order of a  
2   laboratory test of a biological specimen for a patient comprising:

3                   at least one client computer;

4                   a central computer coupled to exchange data with the at least one client  
5   computer;

6                   means for receiving, at the central computer, at least one query  
7   transmitted from the client computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test  
8   request and patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested  
9   laboratory test; and

10                  means for transmitting information from the central computer to the client  
11   computer, the information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for  
12   use with the biological specimen.

1                   50.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein said  
2   receiving means comprises:

3                   means for receiving a patient identification at the central computer in the  
4   at least one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about the  
5   patient for whom the test is being ordered;

6                   means for receiving billing information at the central computer in the at  
7   least one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about a party  
8   responsible for payment of the test being ordered for the identified patient; and

9                   means for receiving a patient diagnosis at the central computer in the at  
10   least one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining at least one diagnosis for the  
11   identified patient.

1                   51.   (Previously Presented) Apparatus for ordering a laboratory test of a  
2   biological specimen for a patient comprising:

3                   at least one client computer;

4 a central computer coupled to exchange data with the at least one client  
5 computer;

6 means for transmitting at least one query from the client computer to the  
7 central computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient,  
8 billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

9 means, at the at least one client computer for receiving information from  
10 the central computer, the received information including data for generating a test  
11 requisition and a label for use with the biological specimen.

1 52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein said  
2 means for transmitting comprises means for selecting a laboratory test code  
3 corresponding to the requested laboratory test from a menu of laboratory test codes.

1 53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, further  
2 comprising means for customizing the menu of laboratory test codes to include laboratory  
3 test codes commonly used by a client.

1 54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein said  
2 means for transmitting comprises means for selecting a diagnosis code corresponding to  
3 an identified diagnosis from a menu of diagnosis codes.

1 55. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 54, further  
2 comprising means for customizing the menu of diagnosis codes to include diagnosis codes  
3 commonly used by a client.

1 56-59. (Canceled).

2 60. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium including  
3 computer program instructions that cause a central computer, in a computer network  
4 including at least one client computer and the central computer, to perform a method of  
5 receiving an order of a laboratory test of a biological specimen for a patient, the method  
6 comprising the steps of:

7 receiving at least one query transmitted through the network from the

8 client computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient,  
9 billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

10 transmitting information through the network to the at least one client  
11 computer, the information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for  
12 use with the biological specimen.

1 61. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 60,  
2 wherein the computer program instructions further cause the central computer to  
3 perform the step of analyzing the at least one query to verify that the requested  
4 laboratory test is payable by a responsible party identified in the billing information.

1 62. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 61,  
2 wherein the computer program instructions further cause the central computer to  
3 perform the step of transmitting a request for additional diagnosis information through  
4 the network to the client computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the  
5 identified responsible party for an identified diagnosis.

1 63. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium including  
2 computer program instructions that cause a client computer in a computer network  
3 including the client computer and a central computer, to perform a method of ordering a  
4 laboratory test of a biological specimen for a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

5 transmitting at least one query through the network to the central  
6 computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient, billing,  
7 and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

8 receiving information through the network from the central computer, the  
9 received information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use  
10 with the biological specimen.

1 64-65. (Canceled)